



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 434

By Representatives Sparks, Womick

and

Senator Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of Sam Davis Lodge No. 661 of the Free and Accepted Masons upon their occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary organizations and their remarkable members who, through their unwavering commitment to excellence, are a credit to this State; and

WHEREAS, one such notable organization is Sam Davis Lodge No. 661 of the Free and Accepted Masons in Smyrna, which celebrated its 100th Anniversary on March 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Lodge received its Charter from the Grand Lodge of Tennessee Free and Accepted Masons on March 11, 1911, and included the following Charter members: William Short, Robert Lee Short, John M. Buck, Thomas A. Martin, William M. Carter, Wilson Ward, Dr. George W. Crosthwait, Jesse Sanders, R. B. Denny, Colonel J. Sanders Gooch, Granville B. Harris, Leroy McKennon, Dr. M. Edward Neely, and Isaac Sumner Sanders, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Charter members also included: Nathan C. Robertson, John M. Adkerson, William H. Alexander, Thomas B. Carter, Albert B. Miller, Will D. Coleman, Carlos P. Smith, Henry G. Davis, Dr. Joseph W. Engles, William F. Fields, Silas L. Hudson, John C. Harris, Theodopilus C. Hibbett, James C. McAdoo, and Thomas G. Sanders; and

WHEREAS, prior to the existence of the current lodge, Smyrna Lodge No. 221 was chartered from 1852-90 and, in 1911, reformed itself as the Sam Davis Lodge No. 661 of the Free and Accepted Masons, and held its first meetings and conferred its first degrees at the Methodist Church in Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, a number of years later, the Lodge members rented a room above the First National Bank until purchasing land and building the current lodge hall just off of Nissan Boulevard in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry in Smyrna and the western portion of Rutherford County has continued to be an important part of the community through its charitable and philanthropic efforts over the last century; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry in Tennessee and the Sam Davis Lodge are part of one of the oldest and most respected fraternities of free men in the world, and Masons continue to exemplify the tenets of brotherly love, relief, and truth; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonry advocates enlightenment, morality, compassion, and freedom, and it is the aim of the fraternity to make good men better and the world a better place in which to live; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize and honor the members of the Sam Davis Lodge for their estimable service to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the members of Sam Davis Lodge No. 661 of the Free and Accepted Masons in celebrating the Lodge's 100th Anniversary and commend them for their noteworthy community service, fraternity, and fidelity, and extend to them our best wishes for every continued success in all their future endeavors.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 19, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 25th day of May 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR